



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE

KC, INDEPENDENCE, PECULIAR, LAWSON MEN INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that seven Kansas City area men were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's indictments are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Christopher L. Morris**, 25, of Peculiar, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of two firearms.

The federal indictment alleges that **Morris** was in possession of a New England Firearms 410-gauge shotgun and a Mossberg .22-caliber rifle on April 28, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Morris** has a 2000 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Raytown, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Mark A. Crawford**, 38, of Lawson, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Crawford** was in possession of a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun on Feb. 4, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Crawford** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon and a 1988 criminal felony conviction for attempted assault.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Ray County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Donny L. Evilsizer**, 36, of Independence, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of ammunition.

The federal indictment alleges that **Evilsizer** was in possession of 894 rounds of ammunition on June 11, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Evilsizer** has a 1986 criminal felony conviction for stealing from a person.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Brian Dean McKenzie**, 39, of Kansas City, Kan., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **McKenzie** was in possession of a Mossberg 20-gauge shotgun on June 11, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **McKenzie** has a previous criminal felony conviction for attempted kidnapping.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Grain Valley, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Wayne W. Hunt**, 26, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Hunt** was in possession of a Acu-Tek .380-caliber handgun on June 20, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Hunt** has a previous criminal felony conviction for tampering.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Leonard J. Smith**, 45, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Smith** was in possession of a Mauser 30/06-caliber

rifle on June 8, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Smith** has a 1997 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance and a 1996 criminal felony conviction for stealing.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela C. Hasty. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Chad M. Fullbright**, 28, of Independence, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for illegally possessing a sawed-off shotgun.

The federal indictment alleges that **Fullbright** was in possession of a sawed-off New England Firearms 12-gauge shotgun on May 28, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone to possess such a firearm not registered to them in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow